IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 16, 21 and 22 as follows:

16. (Amended) The vector of Claim 15, wherein said gene encoding the protein heterologous to said lymphoid cell line comprises a relatively strong promoter, and wherein said GS gene comprises a relatively weak promoter located upstream of said [the] gene encoding the protein heterologous to lymphoid cell line so that transcription of the heterologous gene does not run through the GS gene.

21. (Amended) The vector of Claim 15, wherein said vector comprises a GS gene that comprises a weak promoter, and wherein said gene encoding the protein heterologous to said lymphoid cell line comprises an Ig heavy chain gene having a strong promoter and an Ig light chain gene having a strong promoter, wherein said strong promoter of said Ig light chain gene is orientated in the opposite direction to said promoters of said GS and heavy chain genes, and wherein said Ig heavy chain gene is downstream from said GS gene so that transcription of the heterologous gene does not run through the GS gene.

22. (Amended) The vector of Claim 15, wherein said GS gene comprises a weak promoter, wherein said gene encoding the protein heterologous to said lymphoid cell line comprises

an Ig light chain gene having a strong promoter and an Ig heavy chain gene having a strong promoter, wherein said GS gene, Ig light chain gene, and Ig heavy chain gene are transcribed in the same direction, and wherein said GS gene is located upstream of said Ig light chain gene and said Ig heavy chain gene so that transcription of the heterologous gene does not run through the GS gene.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please delete the present abstract and insert therefor the following new abstract:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to vectors useful for transforming a lymphoid cell line to glutamine independence. The vectors comprise an active glutamine synthetase (GS) gene as well as a heterologous gene of interest to be expressed. The preferred embodiments encompass vectors wherein the heterologous gene is expressed from a relatively strong promoter and the GS gene is expressed from a relatively weak promoter. In one example, the heterologous gene is operatively linked to the hCMV-MIE promoter and the GS gene is operatively linked to the SV40 early region promoter.